

[Advertisement.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

32, Kirby-st., Hatton-garden, 15th Oct. 1845.

SIR,—Being fully aware of the interest you take in every invention that appertains to the advancement of science, and particularly at a time when your columns are strongly advocating a pure and efficient system of ventilation, it may probably not be considered as intruding my soliciting you and your readers' attention, to a newly invented and patented Store. My practical experience in the formation and superintendence of public and private gas works, as well as fire places and flues, combined with ventilation, wherein a strict attention to the generation of caloric, its distribution, &c., has applied to heating and its various purposes, warrants me in a great measure to state my opinion, that Mr. Allen's store for public and domestic purposes excels every other I have seen, or I believe has hitherto been produced. I am convinced, that it only requires to be inspected, to be properly appreciated; it may be seen, with all its various ramifications, at the patentee's residence, 21, Worship-street, Finsbury-square, at any time, but in operation from two to four o'clock daily.—I remain, Sir, &c.,

S. H. BROOKS,

Author of "Cottage and Villa Architecture."

Miscellaneous.

EXPERIMENT WITH FIRE-RESISTING TIMBER.—On Monday week, Mr. James B. Heay, of Dublin, the inventor of a preparation for rendering timber, to a great extent, fire-proof, tested this experiment at the Commercial Hall, Gloucester-street, in the presence of the Mayor, Mr. D. Hodgson, Mr. H. Booth, Messrs. Milner and Son, and other gentlemen. Two piles of timber, the one consisting of pitch pine, which had undergone the process of preparation, and the other consisting of memel which was unprepared, were elevated in the form of the rafters of a house. Shavings were placed underneath, and fire was communicated. In a few moments the memel was in flames, and very speedily it was consumed. The pitch pine, which was three several times exposed to the action of 800 degrees of heat, stood the test admirably. Some of the timbers were more or less charred, but very little injury was effected; and a remarkable part of the experiment was, that the prepared timber upon which the lighted shavings were placed was very slightly damaged by the fire. The mayor, and other gentlemen present, expressed themselves satisfied with the experiment so far as it had gone.—*Liverpool Times.*

FURNISHINGS OF THE CHURCH.—Oct. 14th, Mr. J. W. Archer in the chair; Mr. John Soane was elected a vice-president; Mr. W. G. Whitehead, of Paris, was elected a correspondent delineator for that city; and Mr. S. C. Hall, F.S.A., was elected a member. Mr. Archer presented a rubbing from a brass executed by him, and placed in the church at Wargrave, near Reading, by the officers of the Enniskillen Dragoons, to the memory of their late commander, Lieut. Col. Raymond White. Mr. W. H. Rogers then delivered a discourse on illuminated books, wherein the history of illuminating manuscripts was both theoretically and practically treated of, and giving a preference to the East for its origin; Mr. S. Woodborn exhibited a small and delicate missal of the fifteenth century, with gold borders; Messrs. Hunt and Co., of Bond-street, a French MS. of the fifteenth century; Mr. G. Isaacs contributed an extraordinary reliquary, called a "Rota," of the thirteenth century; The Rev. H. Crowe, Vicar of Bockingham, contributed a psalter of the twelfth century, and Mr. Leake a curious printed book of the fifteenth century, being one of the ancient choral books of Salisbury Cathedral. Capt. V. Anson laid upon the table two Egyptian delias, taken at the siege of Amoz in 1842; and Mr. W. Barton exhibited an engraved hook of prayer of the seventeenth century. The next lecture was announced for the second Tuesday in November, being a continuation of the same subject.

OPENING OF THE NEW HALL, LINCOLN'S-INN.—It is understood that her Majesty has fixed the 30th inst. to open the New Hall, Lincoln's-inn, at 2 o'clock p.m.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—The general meeting of this institution was held on Wednesday evening, when the chair was taken by Wm. Page Wood, Esq. (Queen's Counsel), vice-president. It appeared from the committee's report, that much attention had been given to the evening classes, as offering peculiar advantages to the mechanic, and that these comprised several especially adapted to his wants; as those for writing and arithmetic, geometry and its practical applications, and architectural, and ornamental, and general drawing. A very interesting series of lectures was announced for delivery during the quarter. A discussion ensued as to various proposals for reducing or liquidating the balance of the debt incurred for the erection of the premises, and a committee was appointed to examine and report on their several merits. Thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting adjourned.

IMPORTANT USE OF INDIA-RUBBER.—At an inquiry held in Galway a few days ago, by Captain Washington, the Tidal Harbour Commissioner, one of the Town Harbour Local Commissioners stated that the Board of Works had been slowed 1800*l.* for India-rubber, to keep out the tide when the docks were undergoing repair.

FOR RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE, &c. SEE SUPPLEMENT.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled by the interference of the Stamp Office to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c., are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers, however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For the execution of two contracts on the Manchester, South Junction, and Altrincham railway, being respectively of the lengths, 14 miles and 7½ miles, including a viaduct of 1,000 yards in length.

For the execution of the entire works (with the exception of Rails and Chairs) of the Cuckermouth and Workington railway, being about 10 miles in length.

For supplying her Majesty's Dockyards with Lift Pumps, for pumping water out of ships' holds.

For supplying the London Dock Company with Bent Wood Hoops for the year ensuing.

For the execution of Works on the East Lancashire Railway, being the Burnley contract.

For the supply of 90,000 Sleepers either Larch or Baltic Timber; also of 380,000 lineal yards of Larch Railing, and about 28,000 Larch Posts, to the East Lancashire Railway Company.

For the supply of Railway Sleepers conformable to specification, to the Liverpool and Bury railway.

For supplying the London and Birmingham Railway Company with twenty Passenger and ten Goods' Engines of the greatest power that may advantageously be employed, being not less than 1,000 square feet evaporating surface.

For the execution of the Works on the Hall and Selby railway, between Hall and Driffield, being a distance of about 19 miles.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"C. J." may safely construct the external wall to a fourth-rate in the manner he proposes.

"W. R. A." (Darham.)—Messrs. Whittaker and Co., of Ave Maria Lane, London.

"A Sub." (Nottingham.)—Bruff's work on Engineering Field-work, published by Simpkin and Marshall.

"J. M."—The reply would depend on the terms of Messrs. Bunnell and Corp's specification. We are disposed to think it would be an infringement.

"Observer's" letter in no way contradicts the remarks on the dreadful state of the sewers, which have appeared in our pages.

"Plans on Parchment."—A correspondent wishes to know the best way of colouring plans on parchment? What are the best colours to use? and what liquid is best for mixing the same? We have our own way, but shall be glad to receive the opinions of others.

"R. C."—Carn stone is used externally in the restorations at Canterbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, &c. In quality it is very various, containing crata and faults hardly discoverable 'till opened. It is a good stone, but must be selected with care: few people in England know much about it. We will shortly seek an opportunity to speak more at length.

"S. H." (Paris.)—We shall be happy to receive specimen and terms.

"G. P." (Nottingham.)—The design is not sufficiently good for publication. The classic type and wreath are out of place on a gothic monument. We are much obliged to "G. P." nevertheless.

"W. S." (Keighley.)—There is no new work on staircases. Michael Angelo Nicholson's book, on this subject, published ten or twelve years ago is scarce, but may sometimes be met with.

"Q."—The request did not reach us till it was too late to comply. We have altered the signature.

"W. W." will find a work on Railway Surveying recommended above. We should advise him to understand the subject before he accepts an engagement.

"Quebec."—A correspondent says 1,000 hands are wanted for works at Quebec, and wishes to know who has the engaging of them.

"O."—If the specifications be also made, an architect of standing would charge two-and-a-half per cent. The question is an unsettled one: previous arrangement would be the best course.

"J. S."—If the projections be in accordance with the Buildings Act, our correspondent may rest satisfied. The latter supersedes local Acts.

"G. R. L." "Ballantine and Allan."—Next week. Other correspondents must excuse us till our next number.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, REGENT-STREET.

KITE'S PATENTED VENTILATING AND SMOKE-CURING SYSTEM is daily explained by Mr. Phillips, the practical engineer, illustrated by models and a great variety of experiments, at a quarter past Twelve and Half-past Seven precisely. Architects, Builders, Ironmongers, Gas Fitters, and the Public generally, are invited to investigate the merits of this new and scientific invention, the application of which may be seen in practical operation as applied to street lamps, at the entrance of the above Institution. All letters addressed to the Patentee, New North-road-bridge, Hoxton.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

Lectures on the Music of Spain, by Don Jose de Chabra, with Guitar and Vocal Illustrations, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at Half-past Two o'clock. Dr. Ryan's Lecture on the Process for making Ice by Artificial Means, illustrated by Masters' Patent Apparatus. Daily, at Half-past Three o'clock. Also, Mons. Hottel's experiment of making ice in a Red-hot Crucible. Professor Bachoffner's varied Lectures, with experiments, in one of which he clearly explains the principle of the Atmospheric Railway, a model of which is at work Daily. Coleman's New American Locomotive Engine, for ascending and descending Inclined Planes. A magnificent Collection of Models of Tropical Fruits. A new and very beautiful series of Dissolving Views, new Optical Instruments, &c. Experiments with the Diver and Diving Bell, &c. &c.—Admission on One Shilling; Schools, half-price.

BIELEFELD'S PAPIER MACHE.

The superiority of the Papier Mache for the purposes of ARCHITECTURAL DECORATION is now so generally admitted, that it is needless to argue it. The introduction of Papier Mache into most of the public and private buildings in the country is the best proof of its merits. Ornament may be had in almost every style, and pattern-books, containing more than a thousand assorted designs, Price 1*l.*

PICTURE FRAMES and other Articles of Furniture, either gilt or in imitation of the finest carved wood. An illustrated Tariff forwarded on the receipt of eight post-office stamps.

PATENT QUADRANTAL GLASS STANDS for the toilet, on an entirely new principle, of great elegance, and free from all the practical inconveniences of ordinary Glass-stands.

At the works, 12, Wellington-street North, Strand.

WALLIS'S PATENT LIQUID WOOD

KNOTTING.—This newly-discovered Liquid Composition, which Messrs. Geo. and Thos. Wallis have the satisfaction of introducing to the trade, possesses the important qualification of effectually stopping Knots in Wood, however bad, and preventing them coming through and disfiguring the paint above.

Many substances have been used and much time spent in endeavouring to find a cure for a bad Knot, but hitherto without success. Messrs. Wallis therefore feel much pleasure in offering to the public an article so long and anxiously called for.

In the application, skill is not required; a boy can use it, as well and effectually as the best workman. It is put on to the work with a brush like common paint, can be used in all climates and situations, and does not require heat, Japan, or Cold, wholeness and retail, by Messrs. G. and T. Wallis, Varish, Japan, and Colour Manufacturers, No. 64, Long Acre. Price 2*s.* per gallon.

VARNISH.

It has long been a desideratum amongst the consumers of Varnish to obtain a good and genuine article; brilliancy, facility of drying, hardness, and durability are the qualifications necessary. The wisdom of ever found united. The experience of a life-time devoted exclusively to the manufacture of this article, the great and important discoveries of modern chemistry, and the daily improvements in machinery, have enabled Messrs. George and Thomas Wallis to produce Varnishes (both oil and spirit) unrivalled in every respect, and they confidently recommend them to the trade, as deserving of notice both in price and quality.

Builders, Coachmakers, Painters, and others may depend on being supplied with a genuine and unadulterated article. Fine Oil Varnish, from 10*s.* per gallon; best White Spirit Varnish, 5*s.* ditto; Best Spirit France Polish, 2*s.* ditto; White Lead, Oil, Turps, and Colours of every description at the very lowest prices.—WALLIS'S Varnish, Japan, and Colour Manufactory, 64, Long-acre, one door from Bow-street. Established 1759.